# THE RAGTIME SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CLASSIC RAGTIME

P.O. BOX 8 KING, ONT., CANADA

Vol. 1 No. 2 March, 1962


We closed our last Newsletter with the remarks that we would discuss living Ragtime performers both old and young in No. 2. This is not exactly true, as we intend to discuss living Ragtime personalities. What we mean is that some of the people we will cover do not play any longer as a regular job, but they still should not be neglected in any remarks concerning performers.

## JOSEPH F. LAMB

As you all know, Joe has been dead since September 1960. The reason his name comes first, is that at least a number of us are going to be fortunate enough to hear his music again on May 4, 5, and 6th. of this year at Massey Hall here in Toronto. On these days Bob Darch and members of The Toronto Symphony Orchestra will perform a Joseph Lamb memorial concert. There will be numbers for piano, for string quartette, concert band, singers, and for concert orchestra. The concert will be sponsored by the Civitan Club and the proceeds will go to help raise money for a new hospital. Mrs. Joseph F. Lamb will be coming, and we also hope as many of the Society members as possible. We will cover the Concert in detail in a future issue of the Bulletin.

## EUBIE BLAKE

Eubie, who is now in his seventies, lives in Brooklyn with his fine wife. He, unfortunately, does not play professionally. He does, however, play piano and plays in an unforgettable style. A number of us were fortunate enough to hear Eubie at the Club 76 a year and a half ago, and we will never forget his rendition of such tunes as his own "Charleston Rag", "The Stars and Stripes Forever" (in Ragtime), and his friend's fine tune "Spanish Venus". The friend was Luckey Roberts, covered below. His playing is stronger than most men half his age. His memory is in the same condition; that is, he has a wealth of information about the old days playing in his own Baltimore, and other cities in the East. He agrees with the other men who knew Joplin personally, namely, that he was a great composer but only a passable player. Eubie favours the Stride style of James P. Johnson, Luckey Roberts and Fats Waller. To my knowledge there are no records out now which properly represent Eubie's playing. There are however, quite a number of rare and excellent player piano rolls. Mike Montgomery has them, and I have been fortunate enough to hear them. If you ever see any of them, grab them, as they really give you the feeling of the way Eubie plays.

LUCKEY ROBERTS

Luckey also lives in New York and is a close friend of Eubie Blake. They have known each other for many, many years. Luckey also can and does play very well. His tune "Spanish Venus" (unpublished) played by Eubie, brought down the house at the Club 76. Luckey is known for early tunes like "Junk Man Rag", and "Pork and Beans", and for an all-time popular tune "Moonlight Cocktail". He has a record called, I believe, "Luckey and The Lion" (Willie the Lion Smith) which shows his great stride style. Luckey also made great piano rolls, and again I have heard them from Mike Montgomery's collection.

JOE JORDAN

Joe, also in his seventies, lives in Tacoma, Wash. He is a very active man, still working, now in the real estate business. He has had an amazing life. He remembers everything about his early life in St. Louis with such legendary names as Tom Turpin, Scott Joplin, and Louis Chauvin. He has been a world traveller in the period 1906 to the 1920's (playing Ragtime everywhere). He was a Captain in the U.S. Army in the second world war; has written over 600 tunes and songs, and has an amazing memory. He is still writing songs, is still playing, and is an important man in the Republican Party in the State of Washington. We will say no more now about Joe Jordan as we intend to devote a complete issue of the Bulletin to Joe in the near future.

BOB DARCH.

Bob belongs to that small group of young living men who make their living playing Ragtime. Bob learned his music from Gene Turpin the cousin of Tom. Bob not only plays but lives Ragtime. As all of us know who have met him, he is a likeable, infectious friend, always living and preaching Ragtime. His fund of information is bottomless and his generosity equally so. It is his doing that allowed the Toronto people to hear Joseph Lamb and Eubie Blake. It is also his enthusiasm that is bringing the Joseph Lamb memorial concert to Massey Hall in May of this year. Bob's record is good - his playing when you see him in person, is better. Set out below is an itinerary of his. You should all try to hear him.

Presently at The Bonanza Saloon, Escape Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Bob will play this new room at the Escape until April 28, 1962.

May 4, 5, and 6th. The Joseph Lamb Concert at Massey Hall in Toronto. You should contact the Civitan Club for tickets or write us for information.

May 7 - June 28th. The Club 76, Toronto.

July 1 - Aug. 17th. The Red Feather Saloon, Dawson City, Yukon Territory. We will devote issue No. 4 of the Bulletin to this amazing event. The Dawson City Gold Rush Festival will be held from July 1st. to August 17, and Bob will play every day in the historic old Red Feather Saloon where he originally obtained his Cornish Upright Saloon Grand. It will be over 50 years since this piano will have played in the Red Feather Saloon.

Approximately August 20 to October 20 - The Holiday Inn, Joplin, Mo.

Then back to Toronto for eight weeks, and then back to the Bonanza Saloon in the Escape Hotel on December 26th, 1962, for next winter.

MAX MORATH

Max Morath is hard to talk about as a performer. He is hard to talk about because he is hard for anyone to see in person. Max plays well. Better than that, he plays excellently. He lives in Denver and works basically in and around that city. In addition to playing wonderful Classic Ragtime, Max also shows unforgettable slides of illustrated songs. His engagements in Denver are often for conventions, so the public can't see him. Max does do things however that most of us can see. In addition to his convention activities and his growing number of shows at the Universities across the U.S.A. (I believe that Max will tour even more this fall), Max has done a well known series on Educational T.V. This series was known as "The Ragtime Era". It was, and I believe still is being shown on educational T.V. stations across the country. In programmes of this series Max has played some wonderful pieces of Classic Ragtime. He is now at work on a new series for the same network which will be known as "The Turn of the Century". In this new series Max plays Ragtime in only one programme, No. 5. But what a programme .... we have heard a tape of the show and in our opinion it is the finest, repeat finest Classic Ragtime we have ever heard. You should do everything possible to hear programme No. 5 of "The Turn of the Century". If we can get a schedule we will advise you. Max has been kind enough to provide the Ragtime Society with his script for this show. The script is well written and an excellent capsule article on Classic Ragtime. We will devote our next Bulletin, No. 3, to reprinting the script of this show. The show, by the way, is entitled "Classic Ragtime".

WALLY ROSE

Wally is from San Francisco. He plays fine Ragtime. We stated in the last News that his playing on the GTJ record was marred by the accompanyment. This, of course, is not to say that his playing is not good. It has never been our pleasure to meet Wally, but we have corresponded. He has been interested in Ragtime for many years. He was helped initially by Lu Waters in getting his music on records. His first recorded rag was "Black and White" for Jazz Man. He was, and still is very interested in Classic Ragtime, and plays it well. He is at present playing in San Francisco at The Gold Street. Anyone in that area will be very rewarded with a visit to hear Wally.

JOHNNY MADDOX

John, who is well known as Crazy Otto, is not thought of by many Classic Ragtime fans as a Ragtime player since he plays very fast and furious. John, however, plays very well technically. He collects Ragtime and can play the classics well and slowly. He is playing on request, Rags the way many of us feel they should be played. John is always entertaining, and if his itinerary takes him near you do see him and get him to play you some rags slowly.

During March: The Club 76 in Toronto.
April 2 to April 14: The Guildwood Inn, Pt. Edward, Ont. (nr. Sarnia)
April 19 to May 19: The Holiday Inn, Joplin, Mo.
May 21 to June 2: The Canyon Lake Club, Rapid City, Iowa
June 18 to June 30: The Surf Cocktail Lounge, Lacrosse, Wis.

TREBOR TICHNOR

Those of you who know of Treb as a collector might be surprised to find his name here as a performer. You wouldn't feel that way if you heard him play. Treb is about as keen a Ragtime enthusiast as you could find. He is so keen that he has taught himself to play - and play professionally. He has a group called The Saint Louis Ragtimers: Treb on piano, Al Stricker - banjo, and Don Franz on the tuba. They play, we believe, at The Gas Light Square in St. Louis every weekend. Treb has sent me a tape, and they are worth listening to. Treb plays well and with feeling; you should hear him if you possibly can. We hope that he might come to Canada to play in the future. Treb has also, with Russ Cassidy, started a Ragtime quarterly called "The Ragtime Review". Like this Bulletin, it is intended for people who want to know more about Ragtime. If you would like to subscribe, send Treb one dollar to 11515 Gravois, Sappington, Mo.

There are a few more people who play Ragtime professionally, such as Don Lambert at Wallace's Bar in East Orange, N.J., Don Ewell who was playing with Jack Teagarden last time we heard of him, also Pete Clute plays with Turk Murphy's band. Charlie Thompson, one of the early Ragtimers, is playing in St. Louis - at the present time, we believe, at Chez Joies. We don't know where Ralph Sutton is playing. We are sure there are others that we don't know about or have inadvertently left out. If you know of anyone that we have left out, please let us know.

We still hope to hear from more of you regarding the printing of Scott Joplin's "Original Rags". If you want it for one dollar, please let us know before April 15th. We offer our second reprint this month - "Elite Syncopations", also by Joplin. We have contacted most of the sources of books, records, etcetera, mentioned in the last Bulletin, and if you have any trouble getting anything let us know and we will get it for you.

Next issue will be the complete script of "Classic Ragtime" programme number 5 of "The Turn of the Century", the educational T.V. series by Max Morath.

## RAGTIME SOCIETY'S AVAILABLE ITEMS

We can ship any of the following to you postpaid. Please send your cheque with your order, payable to 'Ragtime Society', as we are not set up to bill you.

A. BOOKS:

They All Played Ragtime - Blesh & Janis. $2.50 (retail $2.95 in Canada)
Player Piano Treasury - Harvey Roehl $10.00

B. SHEET MUSIC:

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| Original Rags (Joplin). First of the Society's reprints | $ 1.00 |
| Elite Syncopations (Joplin). Another Society reprint | 1.00 |
| Maple Leaf Rag (Joplin). Commercial edition | .60 |
| The Favourite (Joplin). Commercial edition | .50 |
| Dill Pickles Rag (Johnson). Commercial edition | .60 |
| Black and White Rag (Botsford). Commercial edition | .60 |

Sheet music continued -

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| Pickles and Peppers | (Shepherd) | Vogel's edition | $ .60 |
| Tickled to Death | (Hunter) | " " | .60 |
| That Teasin' Rag | (Jordan) | " " | .60 |
| Porcupine Rag | (Johnson) | " " | .60 |
| Persian Lamb Rag | (Wenrich) | " " | .60 |
| Powder Rag | (Birch) | " " | .60 |

We have a few only copies of the out-of-print Ragtime folio by Melrose. These are in new condition. First come first served ..... $ 2.00
Contains 9 classic rags.

C. PLAYER ROLLS:

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| QRS 9725 | Maple Leaf Rag (as played by Joplin) | $ 1.00 ea. |
| QRS 9762 | Frog Legs Rag (Scott) | (minimum order 4 rolls) |
| QRS 8460 | Dill Pickles Rag (Johnson) | |
| QRS 9497 | Joplin Medley, containing Fig Leaf Rag and Sensation Rag (Lamb) | |

The Society has no news yet on its own roll releases. If you are interested in QRS Rolls other than rags, write us for their listings.

D. LP RECORDS:

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| Bob Darch, UAL 3120 | $ 4.00 |
| Joseph Lamb, Classic Ragtime, Folkways FG 3562 | 5.00 |
| Brun Campbell & Johnson | 5.00 |
| Complete Works of Scott Joplin (2 records) - U.S. & Canada | 10.00 |
| Essay in Ragtime, Ann Charters | 5.00 |
| Wally Rose Ragtime Classics | 5.00 |
| Golden Age of Ragtime (14 Rags) | 5.00 |
| Ragtime Piano Roll Classics | 5.00 |

Note to our U.S. members: most of the above items are higher priced in Canada because of import duties. We will be glad to tell you where to obtain them in the U.S.A. if you drop us a line.